

Warwickshire Police Authority – 29 October 2008

**Resources – Report of the Resources Panel & Governance Stream
Lead**

Purpose and Supporting Documents

This report provides an update for Members on the work of the Resources Panel following their meeting on the 2nd October 2008 and also enables members to consider the progress made by the Authority in its governing role in respect of resources directly related to those elements of the Governance and Policing Plans allocated to this Governance Stream.

Recommendation

That the Police Authority endorses the recommendations contained in Paragraph 2 of the report.

1. Police Use of Resources (PURE) 2007/2008

We have received the final mark for the financial reporting element of the PURE assessment, which is a 3. The overall position is 3 out of 4 which means that we are 'performing well'. The final marks are as follows:-

Financial Management	3
Financial Standing	3
Internal Control	2
Value for Money	3
Financial Reporting	3

2. Financial Management Report 2008/09

We considered the Financial Management Report 2008/09 which identified the position as at the end of August 2008 and, based on information from budget holders, the forecast outturn is £88.9m.

Subject to Police Authority approval, we agreed to revise the pay budget to reflect current deployment. This will be reported in the next Financial Management Report to the Authority.

The budget for 2008/09 includes support from reserves of £4.698m, a part of which was for backlog repair and maintenance to our buildings and the replacement body armour. Pending the outcome of the planning applications for Headquarters, the programme for addressing the backlog of maintenance has been slowed down and only work which is essential for health and safety reasons has been undertaken. In relation to the replacement of body armour, the programme will take up to 18 months to implement resulting in some of the expenditure taking place in the next financial year. Accordingly the Resources Panel decided to recommend the Authority to reduce the budgetary call on reserves down from £4.698m to £3.539m. The balance of £1.159m will be available to support the planned

activity on these projects. This reduces the 2008/09 budget from £90.113m to a latest estimate of £88.954m.

3. Budget 2009/10 onwards

I thought it would be helpful to remind you all of the outcomes of the budget seminar held on the 8th October as follows:-

Agree a way forward to develop a budget over the medium term that seeks to maximise the use of resources to protect our communities from harm. Do this by drawing up a plan to report back to you by December. The plan must be in progress for the next budget seminar.

1. By the end of October 2008 finalise a service review process.
2. Agree a programme of service reviews focussing on those areas that will improve or maintain services for less cost and following agreement implement them.
3. On the funding side:-
 - a) Progress the work on seeking to increase our share of formula and police grant
 - b) Decide if and when to challenge the cap
 - c) Identify and target any grants or third party contributions that will help to fund existing services (spending).
 - d) Undertake the annual review of charges to ascertain whether there is any realistic scope for increased income over and above inflation
4. On the spending side:-
 - a) Determine the future 150 forward proposals from 1.4.09 onwards;
 - b) Determine the allocation of police officers and police staff between local policing and protective services.
 - c) Agree within the force and with the Authority the basis for budgeting for pay.
 - d) Review:-
 - (i) Inflation calculations
 - (ii) Known commitments and pressures
 - (iii) The Capital programme and its revenue consequences
 - e) Identify service developments on the understanding that there will be no new money.

Review the reserves ensuring that there is sufficient in the general revenue reserve to provide flexibility and provide options for assisting the budget with a clear preference for the use of reserves to fund one off expenditure and invest to save initiatives.

Partnership Working – Explore the possibility of working with others to protect our communities from harm

4. Human Resources Activity Report

We considered a report which gave a brief overview of activity currently taking place within the various functions of Human Resources.

Overall, we were pleased to note the progress that has been made over recent months and look forward to receiving further reports on future progress. We did however highlight the need for the Resources Panel to receive regular and up-to-date data on the establishment to enable us to monitor trends and developments. We also noted that the current arrangements for Occupational Health were being reviewed and that a report on future proposals is likely to be available towards the end of the year.

Steve Nicklin
Stream Lead, Resources